

REMARKS

Claims 1-109 are pending. Claims 39, 47, 48, 49, 60, 63, 80 and 88 have been amended to more clearly define the invention. Claims 106-109 are new. No new matter has been added.

Claim 39 has been previously allowed. However, Applicant has amended claim 39 to delete the requirement of a gas source and gas manifold since those features are not necessary for allowability of this claim. There is clearly no prior art of record that includes the features of the amended claim. The elements that were removed from claim 39 have been added to new claim 106. Hence, claim 106 is allowable.

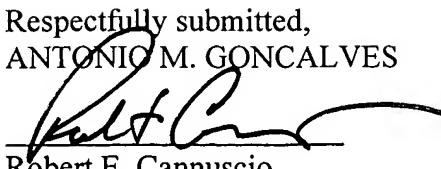
Previously allowed claim 47 has been amended to delete the reference to the reservoirs since there are no reservoirs claimed. This deletion does not change the scope of claim 47 and, therefore, this claim remains allowable.

Claims 48, 49, 60, 63 and 88 have been amended to change their dependency to claim 47. Thus, these claims should also be allowable. Claim 80 has been amended to remove the requirement that the reader be adjacent to the docking station and that the cassette be docked at the time of reading.

Claims 107-109 are new and depend from claim 1. These claims further define the seal that is formed between the cover and the body. Specifically, claim 107 recites that the seal is an integral portion of either the body or the cover. Claim 108 recites that the cover is flexible and the seal is formed by the flexible cover contacting the body. Claim 109 recites that the seal is a separate component.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims are all in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes that direct communication with Applicant's representative will facilitate examination of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,
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